



February 27, 2024

Re: Support for HF 3577 - Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act

Chair Stephenson and members of the House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee:

The League of Minnesota Cities, on behalf of its 838 member cities, appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on HF 3577. We are grateful to Rep. Jordon for the time and effort she and the proponents have put in to make sure city concerns were addressed in this legislation. With the adoption of the H3577A2 amendment, our concerns over impacts on city solid waste management contractual arrangements with haulers have been addressed and we are able to support the bill, which aligns with *SD-67. Environmental Protection* in the LMC 2024 City Policies.

While our county partners generally play the lead role in solid waste planning and management, cities in many cases play direct roles in making sure those county plans are implemented. The new structure of contractual work between PROs and haulers created potential problems in situations where cities, as service providers, directly contract with haulers for organized residential solid waste services, as well as other recycling, composting, and organics collection.

The H3577A2 amendment clarifies in lines 8.12-8.26 that those contracts can continue to be managed and developed under existing state processes in Mn Stat §115A.94. That option is used by a number of cities to manage their responsibilities related to solid waste management while meeting local priorities for services, cost, traffic, noise, and other issues.

Thank you for your time and attention on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Craig A Johnson
Intergovernmental Relations Representative
League of Minnesota Cities